

RESOLUTION 2023-15

A Resolution of the County of Cumberland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Supporting Increased Funding for Community-based Mental Health Services in the FY 2023-24 State Budget.

WHEREAS, Cumberland County strongly urges a county mental health base funding increase to ensure that residents are able to access the care that they need; and

WHEREAS, counties provide community-based mental health services, such as community residential programs, family-based supports, outpatient care and crisis intervention, which are critical to the well-being of our constituents and our communities; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has not invested adequately in these critical community resources. Since 2008, these funds have been eroded by state budget cuts and the elimination of cost-of-living adjustments; and

WHEREAS, community-based programs no longer have the resources to be innovative and keep up with the demand for needed services and have contributed to the closure of many community-based services; and

WHEREAS, Cumberland County has invested in community-based mental health services that coordinate and invest in programs and services that meet the needs and challenges of local communities, including Elementary and Secondary Student Assistance Programs, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for police; support for the criminal justice system such as TOMS Court staff, and prison social workers.

WHEREAS, the state-county partnership across all areas of service delivery must again be prioritized, including a commitment to additional and sustainable funding for community-based mental health services; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Cumberland County calls on the Governor and General Assembly to make a significant state investment in rebuilding Pennsylvania's mental health system by increasing the county mental health base by \$50 million in the FY 2023-24 budget; and be it further

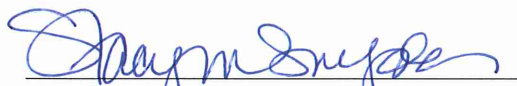
RESOLVED, that Cumberland County supports appropriating the \$100 million in federal ARPA funding allocated for adult mental health consistent with the Behavioral Health Commission's recommendations, thus totaling \$150 million in investments; and

RESOLVED, that Cumberland County calls on the Governor and General Assembly to commit to a long-term plan of additional increases over the next five to ten years to pull Pennsylvania's mental health system from the point of collapse to a system that fully meets needs; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Cumberland County that for the reasons noted above, a copy of this resolution will be sent to the Cumberland County legislative delegation, to Governor Josh Shapiro, and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Cumberland, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this 14th day of June 2023.


ATTEST:


Stacy M. Snyder, *Chief Clerk/COO*



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